

Message Text

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TAGS: EAIR, UR, US
SUBJ: RUSSIAN TRANS-POLAR FLIGHT CELEBRATION

REF: A. STATE 70352
B. STATE 59554

1. ACCORDING MARCH 26 PRAVDA ARTICLE ENTITLED "AMERICA REMEMBERS," WORK HAS BEGUN ON CONSTRUCTION OF MONUMENT IN VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON, TO COMMEMORATE 1937 NON-STOP NORTH POLE FLIGHT OF SOVIET "ANT-25" AIRCRAFT FROM MOSCOW TO US. MONUMENT WILL BE LOCATED IN "CHKALOV PARK," NAMED AFTER AIRCRAFT PILOT. SOVIET COSMONAUTS FILIPCHENKO AND RUKAVISHNIKOV REPORTEDLY HELPED SELECT SITE FOR PARK DURING SEPTEMBER 1974 VISIT TO VANCOUVER. REPORT BY PRAVDA WRITER STRELNIKOV STATES THAT SOVIET CONSUL KULISHOV RECENTLY PRESENTED TWO BRONZE MEMORIAL PLAQUES TO VANCOUVER ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. FIRST PLAQUE PICTURES ANT-25 TRANSITING NORTH POLE WHILE SECOND PLAQUE BEARS QUOTES FROM JUNE 21, 1937 PRAVDA AND IZVESTIA ARTICLES ANNOUNCING SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF FLIGHT. PRESIDENT OF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE NORMAN SMALL IS QUOTED AS SAYING INITIATIVE FOR CREATION MEMORIAL PARK AND MONUMENT CAME FROM VARIOUS BUSINESSES OF US NORTHWEST AND CITIZENS OF VANCOUVER AND NEIGHBORING PORTLAND, OREGON. MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE INCLUDE FRED NEED, PRESIDENT OF COLUMBIA MACHINE COMPANY, AND VANCOUVER MAYOR JIM GALLAGHER. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH STATEMENT THAT PARK AND MONUMENT WILL BE DEDICATED ON JUNE 20.

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2. COMMENT: EMBASSY NOTES FROM REFTEL B (PARA 4) THAT

POSSIBILITY DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL BY GOVERNOR EVANS IN CONNECTION HIS TRAVEL TO KHABAROVSK FOR WASHINGTON STATE TRADE FAIR, SCHEDULED FOR MAY 19-29, HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN SOVIET CONGEN SAN FRANCISCO AND WASHINGTON STATE OFFICIALS. BOTH THESE EVENTS WOULD EMPHASIZE CONTINUED EFFORTS OF OFFICIALS FROM NORTHWEST STATES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF LOCATION TO EXPAND TRADE AND ECONOMIC TIES WITH MARKET IN SOVIET FAR EAST AND SIBERIA.

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